

ATTACHMENT 13

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS



Division of Wildlife
Federal Aid



DATE: November 14, 2005
TO: Doug Backlund
FROM: Nora Kohlenberg *NK*
SUBJECT: **Whetstone Sportsmen and Conservation Club Range Improvement Project**

Dear Doug:

The Wildlife Division is proposing to facilitate use of Federal funds by a third-party sportsmen's club to construct a new range project. Three alternatives are being considered at two potential locations depicted in the attached maps. The three (3) alternatives that are being considered are the construction of a new shooting range, no action, or the changing of the firing direction at the existing range.

The need that necessitated the proposal, is the urban encroachment around the existing shooting range. A golf course is located adjacent to the existing range to the northeast and a new housing development is located adjacent to the range on the north side. Safety is an issue that the club is trying to address by proposing to move their range (Alternative #1). Safety would not be addressed if no action was taken (Alternative #2). Safety would be decreased by a small amount if the direction of firing to the southeast (Alternative #3), but would only be a temporary solution as the area continues to be developed around the range and the golf course.

Submitted for your review in fulfillment of the requirements of NEPA and the ESA, is the following **Wildlife Division** project; in your review please consider the following species:

Species considered

Whooping crane, interior least tern, piping plover, Eskimo curlew, black-footed ferret, black-tailed prairie dog, gray wolf, American burying beetle, prairie-fringed orchid, Topeka shiner, bald eagle, Lynx, Mountain plover, Dakota skipper, Ute ladies'-tresses, scaleshell mussel, pallid sturgeon and greater sage grouse where appropriate by site.

During your review please also consider all the species that may possibly occur in these areas.

DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative #1 – NW1/4 SW1/4 Sec. 23, T 121N, R 48W. *Construct a 14' x 28' A-frame utility/storage shed, install a ADA-accessible Porta-Potty, move flood lights and poles from previous range, construct two(2) trap houses with 5 walkways each, construct a ADA ramp to building, install electrical wiring for building, purchase a new PAT-Trap machine, and construct an approach to the range.*

This project will occur in a previously disturbed area. The area is located on land that has been farmed and is adjacent to a occupied farmstead. The construction of the trap houses will require the excavation of a 8' x 8' x 6" hole. A total of ten (10) walkways will be constructed, each being 3" x 38', which will require 3" of excavation from the surface. The ADA ramp will not require any excavation as it will be constructed above ground. The placement of a porta potty will also not involve any excavation as it will be set on top of the ground with no ground disturbance. Installation of electrical wiring will involve the excavation of a 760'-long x 18" deep trench. The construction of a gravel approach will involve the installation of a culvert with gravel placed on top, and then the placement of gravel on top of an existing trail, which is approximately 180 yards long. The construction of the utility/storage shed will be constructed on top of a floating concrete slab, which will require minor leveling of top soil.

Alternative #2 – SW1/4 SW1/4 Sec. 25, T 121N R 48W. No Action

Alternative #3 – SW1/4 SW1/4 Sec. 25, T 121N R 48W. *Remove two (2) existing trap houses and construct two (2) new structures oriented toward the southeast, remove ten (10) existing walkways and construct ten (10) new walkways oriented toward the southeast, purchase a new PAT-Trap machine.*

This project will occur in a previously disturbed area. The area is located on land that has been developed as a trap range. The construction of the trap houses will require the excavation of a 8' x 8' x 6" hole. A total of ten (10) walkways will be constructed, each being 3" x 38', which will require 3" of excavation from the surface.

Are any ***federally listed endangered species*** known to occur either permanently or temporarily in the immediate vicinity of these sites? Are there any ***other wildlife*** species known to occur either permanently or temporarily in the immediate vicinity of these sites? If so, could you offer some direction as to how we might proceed to minimize and avoid adverse effect or significant impact to those species.

Thank you for your reviewing assistance in the pursuit of accomplishing this shooting range project.

Thanks Doug!

Attachments: (3) site maps

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks

This project as described will not adversely affect federally listed endangered, threatened or candidate species or their habitats. The project does not involve any state threatened or endangered species. Project as described will have no significant impact on fish or wildlife resources. If project design changes, please submit plans for review.

11/15/2005
Date

Approval